

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system includes a needle for aspirating fluid. A holder supports the needle and a guard is moveable to selectively cover the needle. Initially, a cantilevered tab on the guard is moved into a stressed configuration, and a
5 distally directed force on the guard presses the tab into contact with an abutment on the holder. This prevents further distal movement of the guard. Subsequently, in response to a proximally directed force, the tab is released from the abutment, it returns to a passive, unstressed configuration, and the guard moves to expose the needle for aspiration. Thereafter, when the
10 proximally directed force on the guard is removed, the guard is urged into a final, locked position where it covers the distal end of the needle and protects the needle.